(c) if so, the location and production capacity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEB): (a) Six sponge iron plants are in operation and about 14 new plants are under implementation. The locations of these plants are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Government have no proposal to set up a sponge iron plant in Uttar Pradesh. However, a private entrepreneur is implementing an 8 lakh tonnes per annum sponge iron plant at Jagadishpur in District Sultanpur, U. P.

STATEMENT

Locations of Sponge Iron Plants

A. Existing Units

	Name of State	*Name of District*	*No. of Plants*
(i)	Andhra Pradesh . .	Khammam	One
(ii)	Orissa	Keonjhar	Two
(iii)	Bihar . . .	Singhbhum	One
(iv)	Maharashtra . .	Bhandara	One
(v)	Gujarat . . .	Surat	One

B. New Sponge Iron Plants under Implementation

	Name of State	*Name of District*	*No. of Plants*
(i)	Andhra Pradesh . .	Vizianagaram	One
		Nalgonda	One
(ii)	Madhya Pradesh .	Raigarh	One
		Bilaspur	Three
		Durg	One
		Raipur	Two
(iii)	Tamil Nadu . .	Salem	One
(iv)	Karnataka . . .	Bellary	One
(v)	Maharashtra . .	Raigad	Three
(vi)	Uttar Pradesh . .	Sultanpur	One

[*English*]

Commissioning of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

2254. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the production capacity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant during 1988-89, 1989-90, 1990-91 and upto June, 1991;

(b) the progress made so far in the completion of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant;

(c) the cost over-runs due to delay;

(d) the time by which the Plant is expected to be commissioned in full stream; and

(e) the amount incurred so far and likely to be incurred on completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEB): (a) Units under Stage I of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant were commissioned during 1990-91. These units are under stabilisation. The installed capacities of Hot Metal, Crude Steel and finished products under Stage-I are respectively. 1.7 million tonnes, 1.5 million tonnes and 0.6 million tonnes.

(b) All units, except, Bar Mill of Light and Medium Merchant Mill, under Stage-I have been commissioned. The Bar Mill is scheduled for commissioning during 1991. The units under Stage-II are in advanced stage of execution.

(c) to (e) The original cost estimates of the Project, approved by Government in June, 1979, was Rs. 2256 crores (Base 1st quarter 1979 prices). It was revised to Rs. 3897.28 crores (4th quarter of 1981 prices). The project parameters were reviewed as per Rationalised Concept with cost at Rs. 6848.70 crores (4th quarter of 1987 prices). The cost of the project is now being updated. An amount of Rs. 6873.42 crores has been spent on the project till June, 1991. The project is likely to be completed in 1992.

Working Hours of officials in Delhi Fire Brigade Service

2255. SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees working in the Delhi Fire Brigade Service have to be present on duty continuously for seventy two hours and are allowed a break for twenty four hrs. thereafter;

(b) whether the Government propose to bring any improvement in the working conditions of those employees; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) The operational staff of the Delhi Fire Service are deployed on seventy two hours stand-by duty and thereafter given rest for 24 hours. The operational staff are provided rent free family accommodation and various other facilities and allowances to compensate them for their long hours of stand-by duty.

(b) and (c) No change is proposed to be brought about in their duty hours at present.

Construction of Houses for P&T Staff in Orissa

2256. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of houses constructed by the Government for the Posts and Telegraph staff at Bhadrak and Balasore districts, Orissa Circle during the last three years; and

(b) the total amount spent thereon till date?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) *Department of Posts*: Both the Bhadrak and Balasore Postal Divisions are in Balasore District. The total number of houses constructed by Government for Postal staff in these two Divisions of Balasore District of Orissa Circle during the last three years is as under: